DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Wednesday, November 12, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:47pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:45am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	16°C
Maximum	30°C
Humidity	64%
Outlook	Sunny

Alcaraz fights back to beat Fritz at ATP Finals

Pg.20 SPORT

AFTER a pipeline burst during the excavation work for the BRT Red Line construction, water has accumulated on New M.A. Jinnah Road in front of Government Islamia College. While the city continues to battle an outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases, the stagnant water provides another ideal breeding ground for vectors to multiply rapidly. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

68pc employees with diabetes face workplace bias in Pakistan: IDF study

- Research puts India and the US in second and third place for workplace discrimination against diabetics
- Finds people with Type 1 diabetes face greater prejudice
- Says many denied time off needed for medical care

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: More than two-thirds of employees living with diabetes in Pakistan have faced negative treatment at work because of their health condition, while over half have even considered leaving their jobs due to fear of discrimination and stigma, according to new research released by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

The IDF survey revealed that 68 per cent of employees with diabetes in Pakistan reported negative workplace experiences — the highest rate among all participating countries followed by India (55pc) and the United States (42pc).

Over 58pc said they had thought about quitting their jobs because of how people with diabetes are treated at work.

Vice president of the IDF and president of the National Association of Diabetes Educators of Pakistan (NADEP) Erum Ghafoor described the findings as "deeply concerning".

"It is indefensible that people living with diabetes are facing stigma, isolation and discrimination at their workplaces," she said.

The study found that employees with Type 1 diabetes were more vulnerable to workplace bias, with nearly three-quarters (72pc) reporting negative experiences compared to 41pc of those with Type 2 diabetes. More than half (52pc) said they had been denied short breaks or time off needed for diabetes management.

The research also found that diabetes-related stigma significantly affects career growth. Over one-third (37pc) of respondents said they had missed out on career development or training opportunities because of their condition.

The report noted that fear and silence compound these challenges, with many employees reluctant to disclose their condition. Only one in 20 workers had shared details of their diagnosis with their employer. Half of them admitted they had kept it secret out of fear of being treated differently, while nearly a third of those feared that revealing their condition would limit their career progression.

The study highlighted that many employees continue to rely on informal peer support rather than institutional mechanisms. Around 46pc said they had confided in just one trusted colleague, while only 26pc had shared their diagnosis with a few others.

According to the IDF, this hesitation underscores a lack of trust in workplace systems and the need for inclusive environments where health concerns can be addressed openly.

Daily diabetes management remains another challenge

The research disclosed that about 22pc of employees felt uncomfortable administering insulin at workplace, while 16pc were uneasy about checking their blood glucose levels. Without proper facilities or understanding from employers, these routine medical needs can become daily obstacles, increasing stress and affecting productivity.

"No one should have to hide their condition out of fear of being treated differently or denied opportunities," said Ms Ghafoor.

"Living with diabetes requires continuous management, and workplaces must recognise the physical and mental toll it can take. Simple steps such as flexible schedules, privacy for glucose checks, and understanding from supervisors can make a world of difference," she emphasised.

According to IDF, 33 million people in Pakistan — 26.7pc of its total population — have been diagnosed with diabetes. This number is expected to increase to 62m in 2045. The number of people with diabetes awaiting diagnosis in the country is 8.9m.

High court irked by official lethargy in extraditing two suspects, including MQM's Hammad Siddiqui

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday expressed resentment towards the ministry of interior for its lethargic approach in extradition of two proclaimed offenders in murder cases.

A two-judge constitutional bench headed by Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha also directed the additional secretary of the ministry to appear in court at next hearing along with a report on the subject matter.

The bench was hearing a matter about extradition of Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Hammad Siddiqui, a proclaimed offender in Baldia fire factory case, and Syed Taqi Haider Shah, who had allegedly murdered his colleague/senior official of the State Life Insurance Corporation after the victim had revealed financial corruption of the accused inside his office in 2008.

The SHC had repeatedly been issuing directives to the ministry of interior and other authorities concerned for extradition of both the proclaimed offenders from the UAE.

At the outset of hearing on Tuesday, the additional secretary of the ministry along with other officials appeared before the court and filed a progress report.

However, the bench noted that apparently, hardly any progress has been made whatsoever in these proceedings to secure the extradition of Taqi Shah to Pakistan, who had allegedly committed the very serious offence of murder.

"Once again, the Ministry of Interior has provided a stereotyped response, stating that meetings were convened on 06.11.2025 and 08.11.2025 to pursue the extradition of Syed Taqi Hyder Shah; however, no positive response has been received from the UAE authorities", it added.

The bench in its order also noted that in the past, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has successfully managed to extradite other accused persons from the UAE with far lesser effort, but it was not putting forth its best efforts to ensure the extradition of Taqi Shah, for reasons best known to them.

It directed the additional secretary to also ensure his presence at next hearing and submit a report detailing the progress made regarding the extradition of PO in question. It is expected that by the next date of hearing, the accused shall have been extradited to Pakistan.

The bench further observed that the ministry has not even engaged the consul in the UAE to assist in the matter as was directed earlier by the SHC which reflected a lethargic attitude on the part of the ministry in dealing with the extradition.

About extradition of Hammad Siddiqui, the bench said that apparently the ministry was handling this matter in a highly lethargic manner.

Despite the lapse of more than one year since the order of this court, the ministry has still not been able to track down him, it added.

While adjourning the hearing till Jan 13, the bench said, it is expected that at least the country where the fugitive is currently residing is found prior to the next date of hearing.

SHC to hear petitions against e-challan system enforcement on 25th

Petitioners insist on provision of essential facilities, repair of damaged roads first; question respondents' authority to amend relevant law

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has issued notices to the provincial authorities concerned on two more identical petitions impugning the recently introduced electronic challan (e-challan) system in the metropolis.

One of the pleas also questioned authority of the respondents to introduce the system by amending the Provincial Motor Vehicles Ordinances 1965.

Four identical petitions have been submitted in the SHC so far and the high court has put the respondents as well as the provincial law officer on notice on all these petitions for Nov 25 when it will take up these matters again for a joint hearing and the respondent authorities are likely to file reply / comments at the next hearing.

All the petitioners have urged the SHC to declare the impugned notification illegal and unlawful and pleaded for interim relief to suspend the operation and implementation of the e-challan system till final disposal of these petitions.

A two-judge bench of the SHC comprising Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro and Justice Syed Fiaz-ul-Hassan Shah on Tuesday and Monday issued notices on two similar petitions filed by a leader of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League and the Karachi Bus Owner Association, respectively.

Citing chief secretary, provincial and regional transport authorities and deputy inspector general (traffic police) as respondents, the transporters' body asserted that the respondents have no authority to introduce the impugned system by amending the Provincial Motor Vehicles Ordinances 1965.

The counsel for the petitioner Munsif Jan argued that as per recently enacted Section 121-A of the ordinance, the respondents have no power to amend the law while the impugned system was launched without consultation with transporters' unions and other stakeholders violating principles of fairness, transparency and participatory governance.

He also contended that according to fresh amendment, the respondents have increased fines / penalty for public service vehicle / buses from Rs15,000 to Rs1,00,000 on different violations while changes had been made to the Sindh Motor Vehicle Rules, 1969 by inserting new rules 35-B, 57-B and 164-A and the same were violation of the basic fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

The counsel further contended that the impugned notification had been enforced without any clear legislative authority under an ordinance which made the entire exercise ultra-vires of the law and the whole exercise suffered from procedural defect as no prior consultation or public notice had been made nor had clear rules been framed regarding evidence, appeal or data handling.

He maintained that the system in question, enforced on Oct 27, was a form of economic punishment rather than reasonable deterrence thereby violating Articles 9 and 25 of the Constitution while it had also deprived citizens of their fundamental rights to fair trial and due process under Article 10-A of the Constitution as no opportunity was being provided to the alleged offenders.

The lawyer also asserted that e-challan system being enforced without providing basic road infrastructure needed for safe driving and other allied facilities as thoroughfares have been turned into streets due to heavy encroachments while the move was aimed at pressurising and blackmailing the public at large to just gain heavy amounts of money in the shape of fines.

He further argued that despite providing better facilities along motorways and highways, the federal government was not imposing such hefty fines on public transports there.

Ahmed Nadeem Awan, a leader of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, through his counsel Muddasir Iqbal Chaudhry has also petitioned the SHC and argued that the state could not demand compliance and impose heavy pecuniary sanctions while failing to provide basic infrastructure necessary for lawful driving and the impugned e-challan system was arbitrary, oppressive and discriminatory.

The petitioner also asserted that despite deteriorated infrastructure, faded road lane markings, non-functional traffic signals and lack of visible signage, the respondents have begun slapping heavy fines ranging from Rs5,000 to Rs100,000 as if citizens were driving on the international-standard thoroughfares.

He further maintained that such disproportionate penalties, particularly in the context of dilapidated roads and unregulated traffic conditions offended the principles of proportionality, fairness and reasonableness as guaranteed under Articles 4, 9, 24 and 25 of the Constitution.

The petitioner submitted that heavy financial penalties were being imposed upon vehicles' owners without considering deteriorated road conditions of Karachi as many thoroughfares including University Road, M.A. Jinnah Road, Sharea Faisal and Korangi Industrial Area Road were broken, unmarked and under continuous excavation.

He further asserted that the respondents have violated Article 25 (equality before law) of the Constitution by enforcing the impugned e-challan system only in Karachi while other districts of Sindh remain exempt and such unequal and selective implementation constituted hostile discrimination

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Two ex-Muttahida men gunned down in Korangi attack

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Two men were shot dead and another was wounded in a suspected targeted attack in the Korangi area in the small hours of Tuesday, police said.

The Zaman Town police identified the deceased as Noor Nabi, 40, and Ilyas Rasheed, 25. The wounded, Ismail Rasheed, 27, was the brother of Ilyas, they added.

The police said that the victims were sitting at an estate agency in the 100 Quarters area when unidentified assailants emerged there, resorted to indiscriminate firing and fled.

All three men suffered multiple bullet wounds and were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where doctors pronounced two of them dead on arrival.

A police officer said the victims had been associated with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement in the past and they had reportedly joined the Pakistan Peoples Party recently.

However, PPP-Sindh General Secretary Waqar Mehdi expressed his unawareness of the victims' affiliation with his party.

The police officer said they were waiting for relatives to lodge an FIR to initiate legal proceedings.

He said that investigators were exploring all possible angles to ascertain the exact motive and identity of the killers.

A police spokesperson said in a statement that the double murder appeared to be an outcome of some 'personal enmity'.

Meanwhile, Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar took notice of the incident and sought a detailed report from the Korangi SSP.

SBCA urged to stop illegal construction across Karachi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in City Council Advocae Saifuddin has demanded that the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) take immediate step to stop illegal construction across the metropolis.

The demand was by a delegation, led by Saifuddin, which called on SBCA Director General Muzammil Hussain Halepoto at his office on Tuesday.

The two sides discussed the proposed building control law and a memorandum highlighting the issues arising from illegal construction and preventive measures was presented, said a press release.

Saifuddin informed the SBCA chief that illegal construction on small residential plots were not only a violation of building rules but also cause serious civic problems such as water shortages, sewerage, electricity, gas and parking problems.

"In many cases, six- to 12-storey buildings are illegally constructed on small residential plots in collusion with SBCA staff," he asserted.

He proposed that elected representatives and deputy commissioners should also be included in efforts to curb illegal construction.

The SBCA chief briefed the delegation about his future course of action against illegal construction and shortage of resources and manpower faced by the authority.